



**Broward County Athletic Association**  
**Return to Play**  
**Frequently Asked Questions for Parents/Guardians**

- **What are the differences with each of the Return to Play phases?**

Phase 1 began on September 21, and was the introduction of Return to Play. It only included voluntary strengthening and conditioning sessions held outdoors.

Phase 2 began on September 29, with the continuation of voluntary strengthening and conditioning sessions held outdoors, while introducing the use of weight rooms and gymnasiums.

Phase 3 begins on Monday, October 12. It marks the official start of sports-specific practices. Sports-specific equipment can also be used.

- **What do I need to do for my student to be eligible to participate in voluntary strengthening and conditioning workouts and, ultimately, official practices?**

Student athletes need to have an up-to-date Pre-participation Physical (EL2), Consent and Liability (EL3) Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) forms, and appropriate insurance documentation. In addition, this year, a COVID-19 release form and six mandatory online courses must be completed to be eligible to play sports at school. See your school's website for more details on participation in athletics.

- **My child did not participate in Phase 1 and/or Phase 2, can he or she participate in Phase 3?**

Yes, as long as the student has completed all the necessary requirements specified above.

- **Does my child need to add a COVID-19 test to his or her medical clearance before being approved to play?**

There is no requirement for student athletes to have a COVID-19 test as part of medical clearance prior to participation.

- **Will students have access to bathrooms?**

Yes. Each school will identify restrooms for use by student athletes.

- What should my student athlete bring with him or her while participating in sports?**  
 He or she should bring a towel, a personal water/hydration jug and a face covering. Students should wear athletic shorts, T-shirts (no half shirts, tank tops, or removing T-shirts), and sports-specific equipment, as needed.
- Does my student have to wear a face covering during his or her outdoor workout/practice?**  
 Face coverings are required to be worn once the student arrives on campus and are expected to be worn the entire time while on campus. The only exception is during an active outdoor workout/practice session, when face coverings do not have to be worn.
- Does my student have to wear a face covering during his or her weight room workout?**  
 Yes. Face coverings are required to be worn once the student arrives on campus and are expected to be worn the entire time while on campus; to include weight room workouts.
- What type of screening will take place for my student at the school?**  
 When an athlete arrives, he or she will undergo a temperature check, be asked to fill out a quick survey, and have a pulse oximeter check. Once athletes pass all of these checks, they will report to their designated location.
- What are the practice times for high schools?**  
 All practices/workouts cannot begin prior to 20 minutes after dismissal. All workout sessions should end by 8 p.m. Contact your school for details on workout times for specific sports.
- In previous years, my student athlete has also had to complete online training courses. Is this still true?**  
 Yes. There are six mandatory online training courses for all student-athletes. Completion certificates must be submitted to your school. Visit the BCAA website, [browardschools.com/athletics](http://browardschools.com/athletics), to access these courses.

- **Will student athletes be able to use the locker rooms?**  
 The use of locker rooms will be introduced on a limited basis during Phase 3 and will follow current CDC guidelines.
- **What happens if inclement weather rolls in during sports participation?**  
 Schools will have designated (shelter-in-place) areas for students to gather during inclement weather. Physical distancing will take place in the shelter-in-place locations.
- **What if my child's temperature is high when he or she gets checked?**  
 If a student athlete presents with a high temperature (exceeding 100.4 degrees), he or she will be isolated for 5 –10 minutes and then have the temperature taken again. If the student's temperature still exceeds 100.4, a phone call will be made to his or her parent/guardian and either the student will drive himself/herself home, or a parent will need to pick the student up from school.
- **My child tested positive for COVID-19, when can he or she join or resume sports participation?**  
 The student athlete will be asked to follow up with his or her health care provider. He or she is expected to quarantine for at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms and until 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications. The student may be asked to provide proof of a negative test for COVID-19.
- **Are student athletes and their parents notified if another student athlete has tested positive for COVID-19?**  
 Yes. There are specific protocols for these scenarios. Student athletes and their parents will be notified of their specific situation and what next steps need to be taken.
- **Does the Return to Play phases apply to winter and springs sports?**  
 No, right now the Return to Play protocols are only for FHSAA fall sports, which consists of football, sideline cheer, cross country, girls' volleyball and bowling.

- **Why are swimming/diving and golf no longer part of the fall sports schedule?**

Due to the late start to the fall sports season and current COVID-19 conditions impacting our community, there are currently not enough available pools and golf courses. As a result, the BCAA has moved swimming/diving to the winter season and golf to the spring season. These sports will be part of a tri-county (Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties) championship at the conclusion of their revised seasons.

- **What is the status of winter and spring sports?**

The BCAA has established tentative timelines for winter and spring sports. Official practices for winter sports can begin November 16, while official practices for spring sports will follow the FHSAA's posted timelines. Individual schools will communicate information about voluntary workout and conditioning sessions prior to the start of practices. Consult your individual school for details.

- **Will schedules be shortened, since we are getting a late start?**

Our goal is to ensure all sports get to play prior to June 2021. Depending on current conditions, there is a likelihood that there could be a modified schedule, moving forward.

- **What about band and color guard?**

This plan applies to FHSAA fall sports only.

- **My school does not want to start practices on the date that is advertised, why not?**

Principals and site-based leadership have full autonomy to make decisions they feel are in the best interest of their student athletes, staff, coaches, etc. They can determine when to move to the next phase.

- **Is Broward County going to be a part of the FHSAA this year?**

Broward County Public Schools is a member of the FHSAA. The FHSAA began fall sports on August 24, 2020. Broward County Public Schools, along with some other counties, was not prepared to begin fall sports at that time due to COVID-19 conditions. As a result, we opted out of the FHSAA Fall State Series. As long as current COVID-19 conditions permit, the goal is to have fall sports competitions among District high schools. We are also exploring possibilities to extend fall sports

competitions to neighboring counties. The BCAA will opt-in for winter and spring sports FHSAA State Series.

- **If we are not part of the FHSAA Fall State Series, what happens to recruiting, etc.?**

The FHSAA does not handle recruiting. Our goal is to provide student athletes as much playing time as possible. This will allow the student athletes to gather footage for the recruiting process.

- **When will competitions begin for Fall Sports?**

Fall competitions are tentatively scheduled to begin the week of October 26, 2020. Each individual school will provide details about sports-specific schedules.

- **Do you know if spectators will be allowed at sporting events?**

Early conversations with the health and wellness committee have determined that limited spectators will be allowed for fall competitions. Each school will communicate its ticketing and spectator plan in the coming weeks.

- **What is the status of middle school sports?**

It is our intention to offer all middle school sports during the 2020/21 school year. We will not begin middle school sports until after Thanksgiving.